

The Otter's Tale

Newsletter of the Friends of Pool 9

October, 2009



President's View

As we move into another season of the year I'm reminded of a very basic philosophy of life, "slow down and enjoy the flowers, the love of grandchildren, and the beauty of wildlife and nature." Doesn't it seem that at times we're so caught up in an event and hurrying so much to get somewhere, that before you know it...it's over? It reminds me of the anticipation a school-age child feels looking forward to summer vacation.

Our summer was filled with activity at Friends of Pool 9. Pit toilets were set on area beaches, portable toilets placed at Village Creek and Big Slough, and a partnership between Dairyland Power, Genoa Lions Club, and FOP9 netted another at the Dairyland landing. The buoy channel to Ferryville was another good partnership between FOP9 and the Ferryville Vision and Promotion Board. While the weed beds were a bit troublesome the cheese curds and ice cream were worth the inconvenience.

Emerald ash borer traps along the channel and on the backwater islands have not shown evidence the insect has migrated across the river valley at this time. FOP9 assisted the Iowa Department of Agriculture (Mark Hollister) in trap placement (in June) and sampling in July. A second visit to the traps will occur in October, at which time the traps will be removed for the year.

The Second Annual Mississippi River Adventure Day (July 20) was as popular as the first one. Dave Solie and his camera crew from WXOW, Channel 19 came down from La Crosse and spent the entire day capturing footage of the 185 participants on the river. His segments ran on both WXOW and KWWL (Waterloo) several times. He's a valuable partner for Friends of Pool 9 and offers viewers a perspective often overlooked

in television news reporting. Many of us have become more frequent viewers of Channel 19.

Lansing Fish Days (Celebrate the Upper Mississippi River Refuge) enjoyed two activities sponsored by FOP9; the Kids Fishing Tourney and the Eagle Presentations by the National Eagle Center at Wabasha, Minnesota. Both were immensely successful, as was the Friends booth next to the big tent. FOP9 continues to grow in popularity and appreciation along the waterfront.

The Annual meeting and picnic, while only minimally attended saw the election of four Directors (Dan Porter, Mark Schneden, Al Wuennecke, and Ric Zarwell) to another three year term. Corey Richards fixed some excellent grilled meats and attendees enjoyed a photo display of the years' activities.

Nita Fuller, long-time friend and leader of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 3 Chief has retired and will be replaced by Rick Schultz. Thanks for your dedication and commitment to all things wild in the Midwest Region. Kevin Foerster has replaced Don Hultman as the new manager for the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, and will assume his duties in November. Welcome aboard Rick and Kevin, glad to have you join a pretty active Friends group and one of the best refuges in mid-America.

Fall brings new interests and commitments, as well as Board of Directors planning for 2010. Enjoy the fall colors on the bluffs of the valley and transition of wildlife to their wintering grounds. It's a wonderful time to visit the Refuge. See you on the river.

John

"A true conservationist is a man who knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children."

John James Audubon.

Mississippi River Adventure Day – 2009 Another Big Success



USF&WS vessel and staff Clyde Male, transports participants and WXOW camera man to adventure sites.

Friends of Pool 9 and the McGregor District Upper Mississippi River Refuge staff held their second annual river adventure day (MRAD) for kids and parents on Monday, July 20, 2009. Approximately 170 kids and parents, 20 agency personnel, and 30 Friends volunteers cooperated to give participants a “Tom Sawyer/Huck Finn” day on the Mississippi. The event included a ride on the Mississippi River to selected activity sites as well as a noon day lunch.



Caption should read: Allamakee County Conservation member, Jarrod Olson identifies fur-bearing mammals for children in the “Crawdads” group.

Eight stations from aquatic insects to mussels, eagles, fur-bearers, and seining for fish gave the children a day to remember. Participants travelled by large boat (Mississippi River Explorer) and small pontoons (manned by FOP9 members) to the adventure sites.

Funds for the event were provided by Allamakee County Community Foundation, Alliant Energy Foundation, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and Friends of Pool 9. The event was free to all participants and their parents, and drew children from seven states.

Friends of Pool 9 appreciates the involvement of their partner agencies including: Allamakee and Clayton County Conservation Boards, Audubon Society, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Dave Solie (WXOW) to make this event a success.



MRAD children take part in the search for aquatic critters in the swimming pool filled with specimens collected earlier by F&WS employees.

“Children are our most valuable natural resource.”

Herbert Hoover.

Friends of Pool 9 Mississippi River Adventure Day Activity Feature Story in August, 2009 Issue of Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine

Ruth Nissen, biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Mississippi River Team based at La Crosse, Wisconsin authored an informative and enjoyable article on getting kids and parents back on the river. The four-page feature story (“Take a romp on the River”) covers our 2008 Mississippi River Adventure Day, and was published in the August, 2009 issue of the DNR’s Natural Resources magazine.

Friends of Pool 9 has received a great deal of publicity on

the 2009, MRAD and other events. WXOW Channel 19 (Dave Solie, La Crosse) and KWWL Channel 7 (Ron Steele, Waterloo) have had several segments on MRAD and our river clean up day.

We appreciate the coverage we’ve received from these organizations helping us promote the enjoyment and wise use of the river, as well as creating young stewards of the resource. The article can also be viewed on the website **WNRMAG.COM**.

2009 Kids Fishing Tourney

The rain-delayed Kids Fishing Tourney proved to be another opportunity to teach kids about the value of the Mississippi River. More parents (or grandparents) than kids attended the event held along the Lansing waterfront, on the Bob Henkel and VFW property. While the rain may have dampened their garments it didn't dampen their spirits and by 8:30 AM seventy-one fishermen were registered and accompanied by at least that many adults.

This event is one of the real "gems" of Lansing Fish Days that promotes the river and the Upper Mississippi River Refuge. It helps create an enthusiasm for the resource in a very simple way; the fun and enjoyment of fishing. Organizers had amassed over \$800 worth of prizes from sixteen area businesses and individuals for the event. Twenty-six fishing rod and reel combos, five tackle boxes, thirteen LED flashlights, seven folding chairs, minnow buckets, fish-holding gloves, hats, Igloo Cooler filled with supplies, worm gift cards, fishing and hunting tapes, and three cash awards. In addition, each participant drew from the grab bag a final prize to end the day.

The first fish was caught at 8:31 AM by Brooklyn Connelly; an 8 ounce bluegill. A family connection occurred when Lily Kolsrud and Noah Diersen were the winners of Zebco 202 combos as the youngest girl and youngest boy to register. Mya Verdon was the youngest to catch a fish and won a Zebco 202 combo. Addison Huffman was the winner in the 1 to 5 age group with 28 ounces of fish, and also received a Zebco 202 combo. Ty Costello was the winner of another Zebco 202 combo in the 6 to 8 year division, catching two sheepshead with a total weight of 32 ounces.



Warren Coates (left) and Bob Henkel (right) present the Tournament Trophy and other prizes to Aubrey Verdon.

In the 9 to 12 age division Aubrey Verdon caught a 34 ounce northern pike at precisely 9:30 AM as the tourney came to an end, and received a black Zebco 202. She was also the overall winner for all divisions and received the Tournament Trophy and other items. Zach Plante was the winner in the 13 to 15 division and won a Shimano reel and Conolon pole combo.

A drawing was held to give away the remaining items of fishing poles, tackle boxes, hats, Igloo Cooler, and other items. In addition each child drew a package of fishing gear from the "grab bag." All participants walked away as winners in many ways.



Twenty-two happy fishing pole winners at the 2009 Kids Fishing Tourney. Lily Kolsrud (foreground) was a winner but decided to walk off.

Twenty-nine fish were caught by the seventy-one fishermen, in the one-hour tourney. Thirteen were bluegills and seven were sheepshead. The largest was the northern pike weighing over two pounds. All fish were returned to the water to be caught another day.

Sponsors joining Friends of Pool 9 for the event were: Cabela's (and Pat Sandry), City Meat Market, Warren and Jackie Coates, Pam Delaney, Steve and Rita Heim, Lansing Ladies Card Club, Lansing Kwik Star, Lansing Lions Club, Mike Manning, Norton Box and Pallet, Red Geranium, S & S Rentals, Dan Severson Video, Roseanne Sweeney, and Village Farm and Home. A special thanks to Bob and Jan Henkel and the Lansing VFW for the use of their property. The event was organized by Warren Coates, Scott DuCharme, Ken Hansen, Bob Henkel, Bob Henkel, Jr., John Hisel, Willard Protsman, Doug Sharp, Dick Roeder, and John Verdon.

Eagle Programs Big Hit at Fish Days

Two eagle programs were presented by the National Eagle Center at Wabasha, Minnesota, for Lansing Fish Days. They were very popular and well attended. Presentations were co-sponsored by the Fish Days Committee and Friends of Pool 9. The programs complimented the “Celebrate the Upper Mississippi River Refuge” theme for Lansing’s Fish Days this year.



Tim Loose works the Friends of Pool 9 booth during Lansing Fish Days. The booth was a nice follow-up to the Eagle Programs in the adjacent tent.

Each program in the “big tent” at the Festival Grounds was attended by an audience of over a hundred. The crowd was treated to an up-close experience with Angel, an adult American Bald Eagle weighing about ten pounds. Bridget Befort presented the programs and gave the crowd detailed information on the life cycle of the bald and golden eagles.



Bridget Befort (National Eagle Center) carries Angel on her arm as she walks near the crowd under the tent during Lansing Fish Days.

There are over two hundred nesting pairs of eagles on the 261-mile-long Upper Mississippi River Refuge. Pool 9 (31 miles long) has the greatest number with just under one-hundred nesting pairs. According to Bridget, many eagles reach the age of twenty-five years and mate for life as long as each spouse survives. The average size is about ten pounds.

The National Eagle Center is located in Wabasha, Minnesota and is open daily for visitation. The American Bald Eagle has been removed from the U.S. Endangered Species List but is still protected and no part of the animal (including feathers) can be collected by individuals at any time.

Friends of Pool 9 had a nice display and booth outside the big tent. Thanks to the volunteers that worked the booth and helped set it up and take it down. Thanks also to the FWS staff that worked the “hands-on” activity section for kids. The booth and activities were a nice compliment to the Eagle presentations, and we received many positive comments.

Popular Rivers & Bluffs Fall Birding Festival Flies in a New Direction

After 7 consecutive years of attracting visitors from all corners of the U.S., and from more than a two dozen states in all, major improvements have been made for 2009.

Visitors will again be amazed by awesome close-up views of thousands of Tundra Swans, of fifteen to twenty other waterfowl species in enormous concentrations of up to a half million birds, plus scores of Bald Eagles and many other wildlife species. But rather than being held on a single weekend, this years experience will be available on 3 consecutive weekends of *Mississippi Explorer Cruises* on Pool 9 of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Special “Fall Migration Cruises” have been planned that will take place twice on Saturdays and twice on Sundays on the weekends of: Oct. 31-Nov. 1; Nov. 7-8; and Nov. 14-15. The times will be 9 AM to Noon, and from 1 PM to 4 PM. All of these cruises will leave from the waterfront in downtown Lansing. *Mississippi Explorer Cruises* use large, enclosed and heated boats with windows on all sides, where a large number of passengers will enjoy a cozy ride on the most comfortable tour boats on “The Father of Waters.”

The unique “Fall Migration Cruises” will take place when wildlife numbers will be at their peak for the entire year. Expert birders will help visiting individuals and groups observe, understand, and appreciate the enormously abundant waterfowl, other wildlife, and various biologically-rich river habitats. This is definitely the time for passengers to use cameras and binoculars! Avid birders and photographers, especially those who are unfamiliar with our tremendous resources on Pool 9, may wish to repeat these unique tours on all three weekends.

Pre-registration is required for “Fall Migration Cruises,” as well as for all other tours with *Mississippi Explorer Cruises*. This can be accomplished quickly by freephone call to 877-647-7397. Additional information can be found online at www.MississippiExplorer.com. All Friends of Pool 9 members and their family and friends are invited to experience this superb and nationally recognized wildlife spectacle.

Due to the expense of liability insurance, there will not be any “organized” land-based field trips this fall. However, Ric Zarwell will be birding our gorgeous region on a regular basis during weekdays throughout the fall, and will be available to join birders and other nature-oriented visitors who are willing to drive their own vehicles. He will assist individuals or groups with experiencing and understanding our wonderful nearby wildlife and habitats - so long as they are willing to make a “small donation” at the end of the day.

Friends of Pool 9 Receives State of Iowa Award

Friends of Pool 9 received a State of Iowa Governor's Volunteerism Award from Governor Chet Culver on June 19, 2009. The group had been nominated by Mike Griffin of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The presentation took place at Linn-Mar High School in Marion, Iowa.

The group was recognized for their volunteer hours associated with the annual river clean up, the Mississippi River Adventure Day for kids, the beach restoration projects, the Leave No Trace program, the fall birding festival, and other activities that promote the wise use of the 261 mile-long Upper Mississippi River Refuge. Pool 9 is a 31 mile-long stretch of the Mississippi River that offers visitors a broad diversity of habitats and wildlife. The pool is home to a hundred nesting pairs of bald eagles and in the fall carries over 60% of the world's canvasback duck population. The entire Upper Mississippi River Refuge was recently designated a Wetlands of International Importance, the 27th refuge in the United States to be so named.

This is the third major award the group has received in the past year; having received the Izaak Walton League of America Honor Roll Award (August, 2008) and the National Friends Group of the Year (Washington, D.C. February, 2009) earlier this year.



Members of Friends of Pool 9 accept Governor's Award from Iowa Governor Chet Culver. L to R. Tim Loose (USF&WS), Janine Fink, John Verdon, Mark Schneden, Phyllis Verdon, Natalie Baugher, Linda Brandt, Governor Chet Culver, Betty Zarwell, Terry Haindfield (IDNR), Bruce ReVoir, Ric Zarwell, and Dick Roeder.

Tagging Sturgeon at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery

By Don Thran, Friends of Pool 9 member

Tony Brady of the Genoa National Fish Hatchery sent a "help wanted" e-mail out the first part of September. My son Darrin and I responded to the call and made plans to go the fish hatchery to lend a hand. When they said tagging sturgeon I pictured large fish, but after arriving we found out we would be tagging young 3" to 6" fish.



Don Thran holds a five inch fingerling sturgeon during the tagging process at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery.

The young and un-tagged sturgeon were in large holding tanks, the process consisted of scooping a net full of fish out of the large tank, and placing 50-100 fish into smaller containers full of water for the tagging process. Tagging was done by taking one fish at a time out of the smaller container, and using a machine, inject a small wire into the snout of the fish. The location of the tag was in front of the eye and into the snout. The exact location of the tag is important. When the fish is caught later, researchers simply find the location of the tag and they'll know the year in which it was tagged.

The tag is very small (similar in diameter to mono-filament line one-quarter inch long) and hard to see. It doesn't affect the fish in anyway and has number on it that can be seen under a



Don Thran stands before a tagging machine that inserts a small wire tag into the snout of the sturgeon.

microscope. After the tag was injected into the fish we ran it past a scanner that would pick up the metal wire and beep confirming that the tag was in the fish. The fish was then placed in another large holding pool since all were going to the same location.

Darrin and I each had a counter that we clicked each time we tagged a fish. We totaled around 1800 tagged sturgeon for the four hours we worked. There are over 100,000 to be tagged at the hatchery. The sturgeon we were tagging will be released in Upper Red Lake, Minnesota and the St. Croix River in Wisconsin.

One thing we did learn is that volunteer work at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery is ALWAYS welcome. If you would like to help, call the Genoa office and talk to Tony Brady at 608-689-2605 no experience required! By the way the cheese cake and coffee we had at the coffee break was excellent! It was a great way to meet and get to know the people at the Genoa National Fish Hatchery, and a great way to see some of what it takes to manage the resources that we all enjoy.

**Friends of Pool 9, Upper Miss Refuge, Inc.
Minutes of Annual Picnic and Meeting - August 22, 2009
Kerndt Brothers Community Center, Lansing**

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Pool 9, Inc. began at 5:00 PM with members viewing a photo display of the years' activities. Phyllis had over 300 pictures on a CD that Tim projected on the screen; Bob Grover's pictures of the clean up, awards received from National and State ceremonies, and a table of snacks and beverages were enjoyed by the group. The hamburger and brats were grilled by Corey Richards and each attendee was asked to bring a dish to pass. John gave a prayer thanking God for the creation and beauty of the Mississippi River and asked God's blessing on the volunteers for trying to protect it.

Following the meal, the meeting was called to order by President, John Verdon, at 6:45 PM. Approximately 42 members of FOP9 were in attendance. Directors in attendance were: Natalie Baugher, Jerry Boardman, Bob Henkel, Dan Porter, Bruce ReVoir, Sue Stirn, Don Thran, and John Verdon, along with Tim Loose, FOP9 Ex officio member from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS).

Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved as written. Dan Porter gave the Treasurer's Report from August, 2008 to July, 2009 that showed FOP9 actually spent more than it received, with income of \$13,907.02 and expenses of \$14,871.03. The ending balance however, shows the group in good financial condition with \$16,155.58 in the account. Dan also noted that we received \$6,399 in donations from the public or membership (almost half of our income) in that period of time. Additional donations came from: groups (\$300), corporations (\$2,000), awards (\$2,000), grants (\$1,200), sales (\$710), 2008 annual meeting income (\$810), and portable toilet donations (\$238). The largest expense items were beach improvements (\$6,025), annual meeting costs (\$1,455), newsletter costs (\$1,861), and public relations (\$1,263).

John introduced each of the Board of Directors and the Recording Secretary (Phyllis Verdon) in attendance at the meeting and thanked them for their commitment to Friends of Pool 9. He also thanked Night Crawlers Forever and Tri-state Bass Club for their donations. He praised the membership for their volunteerism, 47 boats have been used in FOP9 activities and represent a donation of \$2,350 to FOP9. His figures show 235 volunteers have amassed 2035 hours of work for the refuge. Tim Loose added that this is worth \$19.75 per hour (\$40,191) toward in-kind value to the refuge and grant writing.

John thanked the businesses that have donated items this year; Jackson Street Press (cost savings on the newsletter), Eagles Nest Gallery (framing costs for the national and state awards), Waste Management of Prairie du Chien (two dumpsters), and Vernon County Waste Management of Viroqua (one dumpster).

He also thanked our partner agencies; Allamakee County Community Foundation (ACCF), Allamakee County Conservation, Audubon Society, Clayton County Conservation, Crawford County Conservation, Genoa National Fish Hatchery, IA DNR, MN DNR, WI DNR, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), and USFWS.

John noted those giving grants and awards to FOP9 this year; ACCF \$1,200 for MRAD, Alliant Energy Foundation \$1,000 for clean up, Canadian Pacific Railway \$1,000 for clean up, National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) \$2,000 un-restricted, and USF&WS \$2,000 clean up.

Natalie Baugher reminded the group to get pictures turned in for the FOP9 Photo Contest. She stated that she has very few entries and hopes more will be coming in. The deadline is in December and there are three categories for entries. Check the April issues of the Otter's Tale for information, or go on-line to friendsofpool9.org for more details.

Tim talked briefly about the success of the Mississippi River Adventure Day (MRAD) and stated the popularity of the activity. He also mentioned the "meteoric" rise of FOP9 and that this has never happened before in the history of the National Refuge System, he praised the Directors and the membership for their commitment and volunteerism to the refuge. Phyllis Verdon added "that without Tim Loose it would not have happened."

Four Directors positions were on the ballot for election (Dan Porter, Mark Schneden, Al Wuennecke, and Ric Zarwell) and were voted unanimously back into office for a term to expire in 2012. The motion was made by Sue Stirn and seconded by Jerry Boardman.

Following a call for continued financial and volunteerism support, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. Minutes taken by Bruce ReVoir.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Verdon, Recording Secretary

**"To accomplish great things,
we must not only act, but also dream;
not only plan, but also believe."**

Anatole France.

Hunters Reminded of Mississippi River Refuge Rules and Regulations

By Friends of Pool 9

As September days shorten and the calendar moves into October new uses of the Mississippi River Refuge appear. The Refuge adopted a new set of rules and regulations (with citizen input and approval) as a result of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and its enactment two years ago. Each change has a positive and worthwhile impact on some phase or part of the Refuge, and needs to be embraced by the public.



Young hunter learns a valuable lesson. Jared Verdon, age 10 spends valuable time in the duck blind. As a first time hunter (non-shooter) he helps collect spent shot shells of the other hunters.

For years conscientious duck hunters have been collecting their spent shot shells from the water and disposing of them properly, now the law requires them to do so. *Shell casings are considered litter* and it's illegal to litter the Refuge, so everyone needs to set a good example for others and collect and dispose them properly.

If you're camping on a channel island all refuse, trash, and litter must be contained in bags or suitable containers and not left scattered on the ground or in the water at any time. Placing plastic, glass, or metal in the fire-pit is illegal. *No glass containers of any type (including food containers in coolers)* are allowed on the islands or beaches at any time. Animal carcasses are considered litter and must be disposed of properly.

Natural vegetation may be used for seasonal blinds, with some restrictions. Giant cane may not be brought onto the Refuge at any time. Tree or other plant parts, including dead wood greater than 2 inches diameter cannot be gathered or brought onto the Refuge for blind building. *All manmade material* (pallets, metal posts, netting, tarps, etc.) is considered litter and *must be removed at the end of each day.*

All persons carrying, possessing, or discharging firearms on the Refuge (including dog training pistols, dummy launchers, air guns, or any other weapon) is prohibited, except by licensed hunters or trappers. Target practice is prohibited on the Refuge.

Hunting decoys can be set out 1 hour prior to the start of the legal shooting time and must be removed within ½ hour after the close of legal shooting hours.

Camping by tent or vessel is allowed *only on sites clearly visible* from the navigation channel. Only dead wood on the ground may be burned in campfires, or materials brought onto the Refuge such as charcoal or firewood. Cutting limbs from trees is prohibited for burning or campfire cooking (hotdogs or marshmallows). *Unused firewood brought onto the Refuge must be removed* upon departure. Firewood may not be transported from Crawford or Vernon Counties onto the Iowa or Minnesota side of the Refuge. These Wisconsin counties are quarantined due to the presence of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer.

The daily bag limit in both Iowa and Wisconsin is 6 ducks; however, Iowa allows two hen mallards in the daily bag of four mallards while Wisconsin allows only one hen mallard in the daily bag limit of four mallards. Both states allow 1 canvasback, three wood ducks, and 2 scaup as part of the daily bag. Both states begin the daily season one-half hour before sunrise and end at sunset. Dog owners are reminded that they are responsible for the *disposal of dog droppings* on refuge public use concentration areas such as trails, sandbars, and *boat landings.*

Have a great day on the Refuge. Fall is the perfect time to enjoy the beauty and splendor of the Mississippi River Valley.

“A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends to do otherwise.”

Aldo Leopold.

Photo Contest Alert

By Natalie Baugher

Fall is in the air, the tree's will soon turn our area into a bounty of beautiful color. Many species of birds will be using Pool 9 and the Mississippi River Fly-Way as they head to their southern homes. This makes our area one of the most beautiful and photogenic in the entire country. While you're enjoying the birds and landscape remember your camera, so you can send that special picture you capture to the Friend's of Pool 9 Photo Contest.



Sunset over the Upper Mississippi River Refuge south of Lansing.

As you remember the fun of the past summer months, take a few minutes and look over those pictures you took while enjoying the river and all it has to offer. The winning photo could just be one of them. We've only received a few entries and hope we'll getting more soon. The categories are Nature, Small Wonders, and Landscape. The rules and Entry Forms can be found at friendsofpool9.org The deadline is January 1, 2010. Good luck and I look forward to receiving your photographs.

Friends of Pool 9
P.O. Box 455
Lansing, IA 52151



The Friends of Pool 9, Upper Miss Refuge, Inc. is a grassroots citizen action group, whose sole purpose is the protection, restoration, and preservation of our natural resources. The 500 member organization has no dues requirements, and pays for its activities through donations and grants. It is a 501c3 federally tax exempt organization, all donations are tax deductible. The communities that border Pool 9 are its primary contributors and supporters.

JACKSON ST. 708 N. Jackson St.
P R E S S Charles City, IA 50616
866-508-3257

2009-2010 Calendar of Events

Birding Festival Boat Excursions

(Mississippi River Explorer/Jack Libbey 1-877-647-7397)

October 31-November 1

November 7-8, 14-15

Board of Directors Meeting

November 9, 2009

@ KBCC in Lansing 6-8:00 P.M.

Deadline for entries to FOP 9 Photo Contest.

Rules and entry form at friendsofpool9.org.

December 1, 2009

McGregor District Volunteer Banquet.

February 6, 2010 *(Tentative)*

“May-Day on the Mississippi” District-wide Mississippi River Clean Up Day (Pools 9-10-11)

followed by Annual Meeting and Dinner.

May 1, 2010

3rd Annual Mississippi River Adventure Day

for kids and parents.

July 19, 2010